Before the Federal Communications Commission Washington, D.C. 20554

In the matter of:

Broadcast Localism
)
MB No. 04-233

To the Commission:

Comments of Nickolaus E. Leggett

I am one of the original petitioners for the establishment of the Low Power FM (LPFM) radio broadcasting service (RM-9208 July 7, 1997 subsequently included in MM Docket 99-25). I am also a certified electronics technician (ISCET and NARTE) and an Extra Class amateur radio operator (call sign N3NL).

My comments are directed at the localism aspects of intense emergencies, such as hurricane Katrina, and how the LPFM radio broadcasting service can assist in the management of recovery from such emergencies.

LP10 Broadcasting Operations

The Commission's LPFM rules include provisions for the operation of LPFM broadcasting stations running approximately 10 Watts of power (LP10 stations). These very low power broadcasting stations could easily be operated from emergency sources of power such as lantern batteries,

automobile batteries, small backup generators, solar cell arrays, or even hand-cranked generators.

In an intense emergency, LP10 broadcast stations could be used to organize local community responses to the emergency. In these situations, both the LP10 broadcast stations and numerous FM broadcast radio receivers would be powered by batteries. Also, the LP10 broadcast stations are small enough that, if need be, they can be carried to higher ground or to an intact building in order to continue operation.

Localism Aspects of LP10 Operation in Emergencies

The little LP10 stations can easily provide service to the local community while the larger broadcast stations have been disabled. After the big radio stations have been restored, the LP10 stations can continue providing service and coordination that is focused on the individual local neighborhoods.

Requested Commission Actions

The LP10 type of LPFM broadcast station can perform this localized public service. However, no LP10 stations have yet been authorized by the Commission. In these formal comments, I am requesting that the Commission act quickly to set up application filing windows for these LP10 LPFM radio broadcasting stations.

When the Commission has authorized LP10 stations to be set up throughout the Nation, neighborhoods will be better served during major emergencies. These emergencies include both natural disasters and terrorist attacks.

Respectfully submitted,

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